

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. ____

Introduced by: Whetstone, Buell, Espich, GiaQuinta

A HOUSE RESOLUTION to honor the courage and
Hoosier spirit of the crew of the USS Indianapolis.

*Whereas, The USS Indianapolis was commissioned at
the Philadelphia Navy Yard November 15, 1932, and, on July
30, 1945, while sailing from Guam to Leyte Gulf, was
torpedoed by a Japanese submarine;*

*Whereas, When torpedoed, the USS Indianapolis was
returning from its assignment to deliver components for the
world's second and third atomic bombs to the island of
Tinian;*

*Whereas, The USS Indianapolis capsized and sank in
12 minutes;*

*Whereas, Of the original 1,196 men on board,
approximately 300 went down with the ship;*



Whereas, The remaining sailors were left with very few lifeboats and struggled to survive in shark infested waters;

Whereas, On August 2, 1945, while flying a routine antisubmarine patrol in the area, Lieutenant Wilbur C. Gwinn spotted the survivors;

Whereas, By the end of the search on August 8, 1945, only 316 survivors were found;

Whereas, In a highly controversial proceeding, Captain Charles McVay III, the captain of the USS Indianapolis and one of the survivors, was court-martialed and convicted of "hazarding his ship by failing to zigzag", making him the only captain to be court-martialed for losing a ship in combat;

Whereas, In October 2000, President Clinton signed legislation exonerating Captain McVay and the Navy conceded that Captain McVay was innocent of any wrongdoing;

Whereas, The sinking of the USS Indianapolis remains the worst U.S. Naval disaster in history and the worst loss of life from shark attack in naval history; and

Whereas, On the 60th anniversary of this disaster, keeping the memory of the USS Indianapolis and her valiant crew alive is of the utmost importance: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives do honor the courage and Hoosier spirit of the crew of the USS Indianapolis.

SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit a copy of this Resolution to Paul J. Murphy, Chairman of the Board of the USS Indianapolis Survivors Organization.

